

## *A Rose for Jawdat Haydar*

Blessed are those who go but leave behind them a trace, a name or a legacy ... a name that goes beyond their life-span and their tombstones ... only to nestle politely against the living memory of generations who may feed and nourish on that legacy. Jawdat Haydar seems to fit, squarely so, in this renowned category. In fact, he was foreshadowing it.

*Should I win my spurs today  
I'll cross the frontiers of time  
To write my name on the walls of tomorrow.*

However, I should admit that I had had no idea about Haydar's poetry before I met with Mrs. Shahina Haydar Osseiran, the poet's dynamic daughter, a few years ago. Joining the *Friends of Haydar* as a member, I had to delve into Haydar's published work of poetry to discover a committed poet whose vision is both broad and humane par excellence.

Still, his poetic vision is not my focal point for this event. That vision was flashed by others, Drs. J. Munroe, Jayson Iwen, R. Baalkbaki, to name only a few. In fact, my point touches upon the poetic discourse & linguistic features Haydar employed so skillfully ... to pass on his vision. In short, J. Haydar is a craftsman and a wordsmith. It is this craftsmanship that academics, researchers, and students are invited to unearth & explore in his Marlovian mighty line.

**Thank you all for coming to this event. Thanks for Ms Lana Abu-Teen and for the Chair Dr. Nola Bacha for having coordinated this event, and a special “Thank You” goes to our four students (Ms. Farah Mash’harawi, Ms. Latifa Chukair, Ms. Yara Sleiman & Ms. Zeinab Hodroj) who have volunteered to read from Haydar’s poetry.**

**From LAU, we all send A Rose for Haydar!**